

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are amended. Claims 1, 6 and 9 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate that the Office Action indicates that claims 1-11 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects to claims 1, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 6 and 9 are canceled. Specifically by this Amendment, claim 2 is amended into independent form incorporating the features of allowable claim 1. Claims 7 and 8 are amended into independent form incorporating the features of allowable claim 6; and claims 10 and 11 are amended into independent form incorporating the features of allowable claim 9.

Applicants assert that the present specification includes explanation for how and which degrees of similarity are computed and what they represent. For example, at page 11, paragraph [0059], the specification describes a general method of computing the degrees of similarity between documents by employing a known vector space method with a weighting method, such as TFIDF. The TFIDF method, described at page 10, paragraph [0056], numerically converts character strings in each document, the numerical characters resulting from this conversion are made into vectors, and a degree of similarity between each document is obtained by applying the vector space method on these vectors. From the specification, it is clear that the degrees of similarity are based on character strings within the plurality of documents. Thus, Applicants assert that one skilled in the art would understand which degrees of similarity are computed and what they represent.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants submit that independent claims 2, 7, 8, 10 and 11 define patentable subject matter. Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent claim 2, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Amendment Transmittal

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